

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of this application and consideration and entry of this paper are respectfully requested in view of the herein remarks and accompanying information, which place the application in condition for allowance.

I. Status of Claims and Formal Matters

Claims 1, 4-9, 13-17, 28-32, 45-69, 93, and 95 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 49, 52-53, and 63-65 were withdrawn from consideration and are herein canceled as are claims 1, 4-9, 13-17, 28-32, 45, and 59. The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 46, 60, and 95 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 46, 60, and 95 are amended herein as suggested by the Examiner. Furthermore, claims 47-48, 50-51, 54-55, 58, 61-62, 66-67, and 93 were amended to correct dependencies on 46, 60, and 95.

No new matter is added.

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 112, 2nd paragraph are withdrawn.

It is submitted that the claims, herewith and as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited in the Office Action, and that these claims are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. The amendments to the claims, as presented herein, are not made for purposes of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§§§ 101, 102, 103, or 112. Rather, these amendments and additions are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. The Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 Are Overcome

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 13, 14, 16, 32, 59, 61, 62, and 66 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hurrelbrink, Xiang, Puri, Yamshchikov and Mishin. Claims 8, 15, 28, 67, 68, and 69 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hurrelbrink, Xiang, Puri, Yamshchikov, and Mishinas applied to claims 1, 5, 7, 13, 14, 16, 32, 59, 61, 62, 66 in further view of Zhu. Claims 30, 31 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hurrelbrink, Xiang, Puri, Yamshchikov and Mishin in view of Zhu as applied to claims 8, 15, 28, 67, 68, 69, in further view of Varnavski. Claims 45, 47, 48, 50, 51, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, and 93 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chambers supported by Barrett in view of Hurrelbrink, Xiang, Puri, Friebe, Yamshchikov and

Mishin, in view of Zhu. Claims 4, 6, 7, 13, 14, 17, 30, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Varnavski in view of Pang, Khromykh, Friebe, and Yamschikov. Claims 9, 15, and 29 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Varnavski in view of Pang, Khromykh, Friebe, and Yamschikov as applied to claims 4, 6, 7, 13, 14, 17, 30, and 31 in further view of Zhu.

Initially, the Examiner's attention is directed to the cancellation of claim 3 in the Response to Office Action mailed December 1, 2006 that was filed by Applicant on May 30, 2007, thereby obviating the rejection in part. Moreover, claims 1, 4-9, 13-17, 28-32, 45, and 59 are herein canceled thereby further obviating the rejection in part. Furthermore, claims 46, 60, and 95 have been amended herein to be rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims as suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action at page 4 ("Allowable Subject Matter"). Therefore, it is believed the rejections of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are overcome.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejections are earnestly requested.